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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4041

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

By Representatives O'Brien, Rodne, Lovick, Pearson, Miloscia, Sells, Clements, Strow, Hasegawa, Alexander, Darneille, Kirby, Santos, Kilmer, Chase, McDonald, Green and Morrell

Read first time 02/06/2006. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1            TO THE HONORABLE CHRISTINE GREGOIRE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF  
2 WASHINGTON, AND TO THE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY OF EACH COUNTY, AND TO THE  
3 COUNCIL ON AGING, AND TO EACH MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF  
4 WASHINGTON:

5            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7 represent and petition as follows:

8            WHEREAS, Washington's population age 65 and over, estimated at  
9 696,555 in 2004, is expected to reach 812,200 by 2010, 1.2 million by  
10 2020 and over 1.6 million by 2030; and

11           WHEREAS, There needs to be a new holistic approach which changes  
12 the planning system from the current narrow focus on managing  
13 dependency for vulnerable older people to promote inclusion and active  
14 aging for the older population as a whole; and

15           WHEREAS, This new approach must enable older people, both as  
16 individuals and collectively, to be directly engaged as equal partners  
17 in decision making and planning services that affect their lives; and

18           WHEREAS, Change that enhances older adults' quality of life will  
19 improve conditions for everyone because elder friendly communities are  
20 good places for people of all ages to live; and

1       WHEREAS, Implementing change that enhances older adults' quality of  
2 life will require a commitment from people of all ages, and the result  
3 will be a community that is friendly for old and young alike;

4       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
5 executive branch of the State of Washington and the legislative  
6 authorities of each county promote a comprehensive, statewide effort  
7 that will engage the public and private sectors to: (1) Celebrate  
8 older age, recognize the value of older people, and adequately respect  
9 their contributions to society, both individually and as a whole; (2)  
10 encourage people of all ages to prepare for retirement and old age; (3)  
11 develop "age sensitive" service infrastructures that support people as  
12 they age; (4) establish and adapt existing services to recognize and  
13 accommodate the needs of older adults; (5) build and adapt physical  
14 infrastructures that support people as they age; (6) promote creative  
15 ways for the state's aging population to utilize their talents, skills,  
16 and experience in both paid and unpaid roles; (7) promote flexibility  
17 in the workplace to accommodate and support the vital role played by  
18 family caregivers; and (8) promote the health and well-being of older  
19 persons.

20       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
21 transmitted to the Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor of the State  
22 of Washington, the legislative authority of each county, the Council on  
23 Aging, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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